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How Much Do Things Cost in Japan?

Learn how to ask the price of something

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Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners, Absolute Beginner Season 2

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | Hiragana | All

(Skype)

A: いま、えん はんとうに たかいです…。

B: そう ですか？ドル は いくら ですか。

A: 1ドル は 78えん です。

B: 78えん？たかい！

Vocabulary

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English | Kana | Rōmaji

たかい [たかい]
expensive ;Adj(i)
1 EXAMPLE
ダイヤモンドは たかいです。
Diamonds are expensive.

ほんとうに [ほんとうに]
really, truly
1 EXAMPLE
ほんとうに すみません。
I'm really sorry.

いくら [いくら]
how much (asking price)
1 EXAMPLE
コーラは いくらですか。
How much is the cola?

78えん [ななじゅうはちえん]
78 yen
1 EXAMPLE
トマトは７８えんです。
A tomato is 78 yen.

いま [いま]
now
1 EXAMPLE
いま、なんじですか。
What time is it now?

そうですか。 [そうですか。]
Really? Is that so?
1 EXAMPLE
えっそうですか？
Huh? Is that so?

えん [えん]
yen(Japanese currency)
1 EXAMPLE
これは１００えんです。
This is 100 yen.

ドル [どる]
dollar
1 EXAMPLE
オーストラリアドルは いくらですか？
How much is the Australian dollar?

1ドル [いちどる]
one dollar
1 EXAMPLE
1ドルです。
It's one dollar.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How Much Something Costs.
1 ドル は いくら です か。
Ichi-doru wa ikura desu ka.
"How much is one dollar?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to say "how much is it?" using the A *wa ikura desu ka* ("How much is A?") sentence structure.

How to Ask the Price: [A] *wa ikura desu ka*.

To ask the price of something, we use the question word *ikura*, meaning "how much."

Formation

- **[A] *wa ikura desu ka*. → "How much is [A]?"**

* In this pattern, A = the item you want to know the price of

Sample Sentences

1. これ は いくら ですか。
Kore wa ikura desu ka.
"How much is it?"
2. １ユーロ は いくらです か。
Ichi-yūro wa ikura desu ka.
"How much is one euro?"
3. ハンバーガー は いくら です か。
Hanbāgā wa ikura desu ka.
"How much is a hamburger?"

Reference

- *honto ni* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ えん (en)
En is the Japanese pronunciation of the Japanese currency, the yen. Unlike the English pronunciation, however, there's no [-y] sound, so be careful!

Let's also check how to pronounce "dollar" and "Euro" in Japanese...

- ドル (*doru*) → "dollar"
- ユーロ (*yūro*) → "euro"

★ たかい (takai)
Takai means "expensive" or "high." The opposite word is *yasui*, which means "cheap" or "inexpensive." Although in English we say that a currency is "strong" or "weak," in Japanese we express this as "expensive" or "cheap."

★ Numbers from Twenty to One Hundred

Multiples of ten up to one hundred:

NUMBER	JAPANESE
10	*jū*
20	*ni-jū*
30	*san-jū*
40	*yon-jū*
50	*go-jū*
60	*roku-jū*
70	*nana-jū*
80	*hachi-jū*
90	*kyū-jū*
100	*hyaku*

For Example:

- 23 → *ni-jū san*
- 99 → *kyū-jū kyū*

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

数 kazu
number — *Introduced*

は wa
Topic maker, As for — *Used*

です desu
to be (copula) — *Used*

か (1) ka (1)
question particle — *Used*

Lesson Transcript

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